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Anything once detached is carried away by the current which is here somewhat brisk. When removed, the flint had all the evidence of having been "chipped," and was evidently the result of a rude attempt at an arrow-head. We cannot, therefore, in view of all the facts resist the conclusion that the mound was of human origin.

The only shell-heaps visited by us in which we failed to find satisfactory traces of man, was on the left bank of the river, a few miles below Hawkinsville (formerly Ocoola). This deposit is one hundred and fifty to two hundred feet in length and eight feet high, has a swamp in the rear from which it rises very abruptly; on the front it has been so much undermined by the river that it presents a nearly vertical face, showing a good section through its whole length. A series of excavations had been made along the summit during the rebellion, for military purposes, so that there were unusually good opportunities for examination. Notwithstanding all this, we failed to find any pottery or other works of man at any point, except within a few inches of the surface. The contrast with Black Hammock and Old Enterprise was very striking. The mound was composed almost entirely of Paludinas, and, in some points, of these mixed with sand, forming a solid conglomeration. In this last we saw fragments of the tibia of a deer, which had been broken in the same manner as the bones from the other shell-heaps. The abruptness with which the mound rose from the level surface on the rear gave it the appearance, and this was the only circumstance which did, of artificial origin.—*To be concluded.*

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## THE BELTED KINGFISHER.

BY AUGUSTUS FOWLER.

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THIS bird, *Ceryle Alcyon*, perforates the sand or gravel-bank for a breeding-place, preferring a situation near some

stream of water; sometimes, however, they select a place a mile or more distant from their fishing haunts. They will associate with the Sand-martins, and rear their brood in the same bank. Although there is a great difference in the disposition of these two species of birds in the management of their home affairs, as regards neatness and system of living, yet they live amicably together. The Martin, quiet and gentle in her manner, carries on the affairs of her household, which would do credit to many a housewife living in a higher sphere, and of whom domestic economists would do well to take a few lessons in the art of house-keeping. The tene-ment of the Kingfisher presents quite a different aspect. In it there is no nest of soft dried grass and downy feathers prepared for the nestlings, nor care of any kind for the reception of the eggs, except a cavity hollowed in the form of an oven at the extreme end of the hole, which measures in height from four to five inches, and in depth, below the passage leading to it, about three-fourths of an inch. The passages are usually from thirty to thirty-five inches in length; the first one is straight and about sixteen inches long; the second, which leads to the nest, diverges to the right or left, and is about the same length of the first one. On the bare earth, in the space above described, the female deposits from six to eight pure white eggs, which measure in length one and one-fourth inches, and in breadth one inch. Unlike the mild birds of the bank with whom it has the peaceful privilege of breeding with, it comes with a furious flight, with a fish still quivering in its powerful bill, with crest erect, and with a loud rattling voice, that wakes the echoes, and enters the hole, dividing amongst the brood the food it brings them. It requires but a short time to render the apartment a filthy one; the offal of their food, the excrements of the young birds, and the exhalations of their bodies, produce such a stench as to make it a wonder how they live and thrive in such an offensive place.

The Kingfisher is more cautious when it approaches its nest

before the eggs are hatched than afterwards. During the time the female is laying her eggs, she does not fly directly to her nest, but alights near by on the branch of some tree or prominent object, and raises her head and tail together, and at the same time her crest; she reconnoitres the place for some minutes, and, scanning every object closely, then, if not alarmed, she enters her hole. The entrance to her nest is not round, but in the form of an ellipsis. It is larger, but otherwise similar in shape to that of the Sand-martin. It is astonishing that so great an observer of natural objects as Mr. Audubon should represent the entrance to the nest of the Martin as being round; such a mistake, not being in conformity with the facts in relation to the posture and appearance of the birds he so beautifully delineates, destroys the harmony of his whole picture. The Kingfishers arrive early and prepare their nesting-place; they then lay their eggs, and incubation commences about the tenth of April.

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## NOTES ON TROPICAL FRUITS.

BY W. T. BRIGHAM.

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[Continued from page 311.]

*Ananassa* (various species),—Pineapple, Ananas. The flavor of tropical fruits raised under glass is almost always inferior, but the pineapple is a marked exception. Perhaps no fruit differs more in quality in its own native land, some fields producing a rich juicy fruit, while the plantations near by yield only a dry insipid produce. Under glass, the golden and ruby cones are almost always good. The best specimens of pines come, it is said, from Guayaquil; but the little island of Niihau, in the Hawaiian group, produces a fruit rich and melting, such as is seldom found in the East Indies. Here they may be eaten as oranges.